

JIM'S GIFT

A few days after
our Christmas party
Jim made & delivered
a persimmon pudding
to each of us.
The presents we had
exchanged were risqué,
downright dirty in
some cases. I thought
they were funny,
so did others,
but Jim didn't &
acting wisely brought
a delicious gift
with his entreaty
for next year.

PILOTS

In war
murder is legal.
Always been that way.
Yet it disturbs me
to watch two
pilots celebrate a
kill as if it
were a significant
achievement, &
it is, to some,
once validated
by superiors.

KID GAMES

My friend Ken
still has fragments
of a 22 slug
in his left ankle.
Happened when he
was a kid playing
games with guns.
He & his buddies
liked to see how
close they could
come without
hitting someone.
Ken said he
shot a kid's
hat off once.
Now he grins
in disbelief.

LIVED THRU IT

Army noncoms
used to say
if a 45 round
hit you in
the hand it'd
knock you down.
A student of mine
got hit in the
gut with one.
Knocked him down
all right, but
he lived thru it.